



Aalborg Universitet

AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Philosophies and Space and Place connected - A piece of Jewellery and a War Monument

Christiansen, Elias Melvin; Fisker, Anna Marie

Published in:
ARCHDESIGN '15/ II. Architectural Design Conference/DAKAM

Publication date:
2015

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Christiansen, E. M., & Fisker, A. M. (2015). Philosophies and Space and Place connected - A piece of Jewellery and a War Monument. In *ARCHDESIGN '15/ II. Architectural Design Conference/DAKAM*

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

ARCHDESIGN '15/ II. Architectural Design Conference/DAKAM

Authors:

Name: Elias Melvin Christiansen

Institution: Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, Aalborg University

Country: Denmark

Title: Research Assistant, MSc.Eng in Architecture

E-mail: emch@create.aau.dk

Name: Anna Marie Fisker

Institution: Department of Civil Engineering, Aalborg University

Country: Denmark

Title: Ass. Professor, PhD. MAA Architect

E-mail: fisker@civil.aau.dk

Theme: Track 1: Architectural Design and Design Methodologies

01.3: Architectural Form: Philosophies and Space and Place

Title: Philosophies and Space and Place connected - A piece of Jewellery and a War Monument

Amidst the pulsating heart of Berlin, the blooming capital of economics and culture, we find ourselves suddenly in a vacuum of Space and Place. We walk into architect Peter Eisenman's "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe", an overwhelming field of grey; a field of algorithmically undulating "stelae" that intentionally unsettle the horizontal and vertical references by which we as individuals rationally locate ourselves.

Moving beyond this pure architectural form to examine scalar geometry, we realize the embodied experience of Space and Place. This is a Place embodied what Eisenman refers to as: Deep Structure; through which he attempts to explore the notion of visual syntax. It is from within this Space that we reconsider another architectural form; Eisenman's jewellery. What is behind, what are the language of his jewellery, which Eisenman refers to as archetypal symbols of the decentered man and his unconsciousness? Do these objects propose a new relationship with the one who wear them? They are not emulating human body or proportions, neither decorative nor figurative. They have their own life, but are they part of a continuum?

We follow Eisenman through an elaboration of the theories and philosophies embodied in his Jewellery and the War Monument, applying his distinctly personal variant of de-constructivism. We further address Eisenmans unique interdisciplinary encounter with the philosopher Jacques Derrida, analysing their conversations concerning the ontological significance of spatiality and the philosophical notion “Chora”. Digging deeper into Eisenman's task to develop a practice that come “from outside” - a new type of layered modernist adversarial practice launched from a placeless but volatile "steppe" home of disembodied fluxes, we notice both philosophical and destabilizing forces of historical change.

Why does Eisenman's works remain as a tactical enterprise in Space and Place? Works, which force from the outset are drafted from that of the enemy - classicism - but also often turned aggressively against it like in his jewellery that also refers to - past, present and future. We examine Eisenmans Architectural Forms that seems to deny any connection to or embellishment of human form being part of a scale continuum of objects from the ring to a building and we connect them to Philosophies and Space and Place.

Keywords: Space and Place, Embodied and Disembodied Spaces, Architect Peter Eisenman, Philosopher Jacques Derrida, “Chora”, De-constructivism